

- A. Attending:** Carol Lamey & Brenda Evans – Job Service, Marla Hagen – Regional Director Workforce Services, Sylvia Murray – Church of Jesus Christ of LDS, Geraldine Laux & Darrell Hannum – HRDC, Toni Svaleson, Kathy Jaymes – MSU Northern and Val Golden – Office of Public Assistance

B. Agency Updates

a. Job Service

- i. Marla Hagen reviewed the Interagency Rapid Response Team. Its scope is broader than the previous Rapid Response that DLI has done in the past. It includes all state agencies, contractors & community agencies. Job Services have been directed to hold Community Resource meetings for the community not just for the unemployed individual but their family and also the underemployed to allow them to get information on various different services available to them in one big setting. Addresses & e-mail addresses can be pulled of systems (UI, MT Works) to send letter on meeting.
- ii. L & L Pizza – Carol & Val attended an initial rapid response with employees – 17 to 20 employees involved.
- iii. Office has been fairly busy with UI claims. There are two different extensions that the government has approved. Volume of claims for the state is up. Applicants can file either on-line or by phone.
- iv. WIRED – Coordinating with Fort Belknap 477 & Fort Belknap College on CDL class
- v. Carol is working with Ray at Bullhook clinic to get the JobLINC website up & working
- vi. Inside of building has recently been painted and will be looking at floor covering.
- vii. Office traffic is staying similar to last year. A large number of individuals are registering to our system on-line
- viii. Carol reviewed the new Twitter system that when an applicant signs up for it on our site will receive a tweet of 140 characters or less on new jobs as they are opened and our URL to go to get information on the job. This is not an interactive system, only informational.

b. MSU Northern

- i. Search for new chancellor has begun with plan to have on board by August. Search committee for this will be out of MSU Bozeman. A search firm has been hired for this. Resumes have been coming in from all of the U.S. and the world.
- ii. Other positions open also include instructor of music, chemistry & automotive.

c. Office of Public Assistance

- i. SNAP (old Food Stamp program) is going well. The eligibility requirements are not as strict as previous. Outreach has increased and has seen an increase in applicants both in our area and statewide.
- ii. Chimes computer program for Medicaid will begin testing on system in January and hoping to be up and operational by July of 2009. Staff will be attending training for this system & will come back and train the rest of the staff.
- iii. A staff person from Blaine County has resigned and at present vacancy savings will prevent the position from being filled and unknown if will be able to fill at all.
- iv. Management evaluation will occur next month and hopefully results will be positive with the changed to shared caseload.

d. REO

- i. Toni relayed that she is now officially the Central Case manager where she had been temporary. Currently she has openings for 17 new applications that need to be enrolled by 06/30/09.

e. **HRDC**

- i. Funding has been decreased for the ABE and WoRC program.
- ii. ABE now has a distance learning component for on-line study for remote areas
- iii. Job Service sends all individuals that need to have TABE testing to HRDC which they will continue as it shows working with community agencies and assists with numbers served
- iv. GED testing – cost is \$55 for the completed battery of tests and needs to be paid prior to testing. Testing has expanded to include Fort Belknap on the 2nd Friday of each month.
- v. Summer Youth is back and the age has expanded to include those individuals from the age of 14 up to 24 years of age. Unsure of the number of slots available until additional details are received. HRDC may be hiring a temporary person to assist with this program.

f. **Church of Jesus Christ of LDS – Employment & training**

- i. Sylvia relayed that they are seeing more family members moving back to our area to live with family. Also seeing more retirees moving back. One of the 1st things that they encourage is registration at jobs.mt.gov.

C. **Other Items of Interest (suggestions/concerns/open forum) - none**

D. **Next Brown Bag** –Brenda will review list and notify us

E. **Next meeting:** May 13, 2009 at 10:30 at Job Service.

Brown bag luncheon followed the meeting - Bullhook Clinic was presenter